

Application No. 09/944,581

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.
Claims 1 - 21 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 - 3, 6 - 9, 16 - 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McComb et al. (Using WordPerfect 6.1 for Windows) ("McComb") in view of Shima (US Patent No. 6,676,309) ("Shima"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In claim 1, Applicants recite a print driver user interface method for printing a document. The method includes receiving at the print driver a number corresponding to a plural number of copies of the document to be printed from a software application and receiving at the print driver at least one command relating to an operation to be performed on each of the plural number of copies of the document to be printed. The print driver displays a first feature to a user in response to receiving a plural number of copies of the document to be printed, offers the user one or more choices relating to printing copies of the document, and transfers control of printing the number of copies from the software application to the print driver.

Claim 1 as amended should be allowed as the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness. In order to sustain an obviousness rejection under 35 USC § 103(a), the Examiner must show that a combination of the cited references teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim being rejected. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). The Examiner has failed to show that the combination of references teaches or suggests all the limitations of amended claim 1. Specifically, for example, the Examiner has not shown where either of the references discloses displaying a first feature to a user in response to receiving a plural number of copies of the document to be printed. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection should be withdrawn and claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 2, 3, and 6 - 9 should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed as claims 2, 3, and 6 - 9 depend from claim 1.

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Regardless of whether claim 1 is allowable, claim 2 should be allowable. Claim 2 recites the additional limitation that offering the user one or more choices includes permitting the user to reselect a number of copies of the document to be printed. The Examiner asserts that the disclosure of pages 301 and 302 of McComb anticipates this limitation. However, McComb describes Fig. 8.7 as a Print Preferences dialog box reachable by selecting Edit, Preferences, Print. It does not appear to be, and the Examiner has not shown that it is, part of a print driver user interface. As stated with respect to claim 1, in order to sustain an obviousness rejection under 35 USC § 103(a), the Examiner must show that a combination of the cited references teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim being rejected. As the Examiner has not shown that McComb or Shima disclose a print driver user interface method that permits the user to reselect a number of copies of the document to be printed, the rejection to claim 2 should be withdrawn.

Regardless of whether claim 1 is allowable, claim 9 should be allowable. Claim 9 recites the additional limitation of reporting to the software application that one copy will be printed. The Examiner appears to implicitly assert that McComb or Shima discloses the ability to select the number of copies in a print driver user interface. The Examiner then concludes that if the user enters 1 in the number of copies box, 1 will be reported to the application. However, Applicants do not see where either reference discloses selecting the number of copies in a print driver user interface. Figs. 8.1 and 8.7 in McComb both appear to be WordPerfect dialog boxes. As stated with respect to claim 1, in order to sustain an obviousness rejection under 35 USC § 103(a), the Examiner must show that a combination of the cited references teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim being rejected. As the Examiner has not shown that McComb or Shima disclose a print driver user interface method that reports to the software application that one copy will be printed, the rejection to claim 9 should be withdrawn.

It should be noted that with respect to entering a number of copies in most cases, the user will be entering more than 1, but the print driver will report 1 to the application.

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In claim 16, Applicants recite a print driver UI method for printing multiple copies of a document. The print driver method includes offering the user one or more choices relating to printing multiple copies of the document, transferring control of printing the multiple copies from a software application to the print driver, and reporting to the software application that one copy of the document will be printed.

Claim 16 should be allowed as the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. In order to sustain an obviousness rejection under 35 USC § 103(a), the Examiner must show that a combination of the cited references teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim being rejected. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). Claim 16 recites, for example, reporting to the software application that one copy of the document will be printed. For the reasons presented in Applicants' argument with respect to claim 9, claim 16 should be allowed as well.

Claims 17, 18, and 20 should be allowed if claim 16 is allowed as claims 17, 18, and 20 depend from claim 16.

Claims 4, 5, 10 – 15, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McComb in view of Shima, and further in view of Naik et al. (US Patent No. 5,579,446) ("Naik"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 5 should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed as claims 4 and 5 depend from and includes all the limitations of claim 1. With respect to claim 1, Applicants argued that the Examiner has not shown where either of the references discloses displaying a first feature to a user in response to receiving a plural number of copies of the document to be printed. The Examiner has also not identified this limitation in Naik. Further the Examiner has not provided sufficient motivation to combine the Naik with the remaining two patents other than to generate the embodiments Applicants recite in claims 4 and 5. Some motivation needs to be present in the references or the prior art to support a valid 35 USC § 103(a) combination.

Moreover, Applicants further recite in claim 4 that permitting the user to select to transfer control includes permitting the user to select that there is a problem printing multiple copies. The Examiner asserts that the interactive computer screen of FIG. 5 of Naik discloses this element. However, FIG. 5 allows the user to assume manual control of color

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features. The Examiner has not shown where Naik discloses the ability to select a problem printing multiple copies.

In claim 10, Applicants recite print driver UI method for printing copies of a document. The method includes receiving at the print driver a plural number corresponding to the number of copies to be printed from a software application, receiving at the print driver at least one command relating to an operation to be performed on each of the plural number of copies to be printed, and displaying a feature to a user informing the user that the software application may have a problem printing multiple copies.

Claim 10 should be allowed as the Examiner has not established that the cited combination of patents teach all the limitations of claim 10. See Applicants arguments with respect to claims 1, 4, and 5.

Claims 11 – 15 should be allowed if claim 10 is allowed as claims 11 – 15 depend from claim 10 and include all the limitations of claim 10.

Claim 19 should be allowed as the Examiner has not established that a combination of the references teaches all the elements of claim 19. For claim 19, see the arguments made with respect to claims 16 and 4, for example.

Claim 21 should be allowed as the Examiner has not established that a combination of the references teaches all the elements of claim 21. For claim 21, see the arguments made with respect to claims 1, 4, and 16, for example.

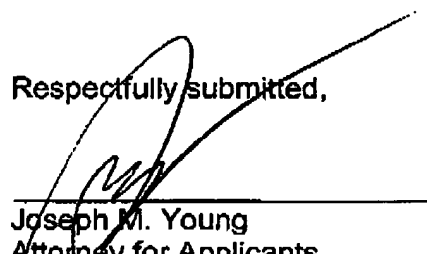
Conclusion

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

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A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



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